

Office of Columbia River's Water Supply & Mitigation Solutions

G. Thomas Tebb
Director
Office of Columbia River

Water Resource Mitigation Joint Legislative Task Force – December 14, 2018



Authorizing Statutes

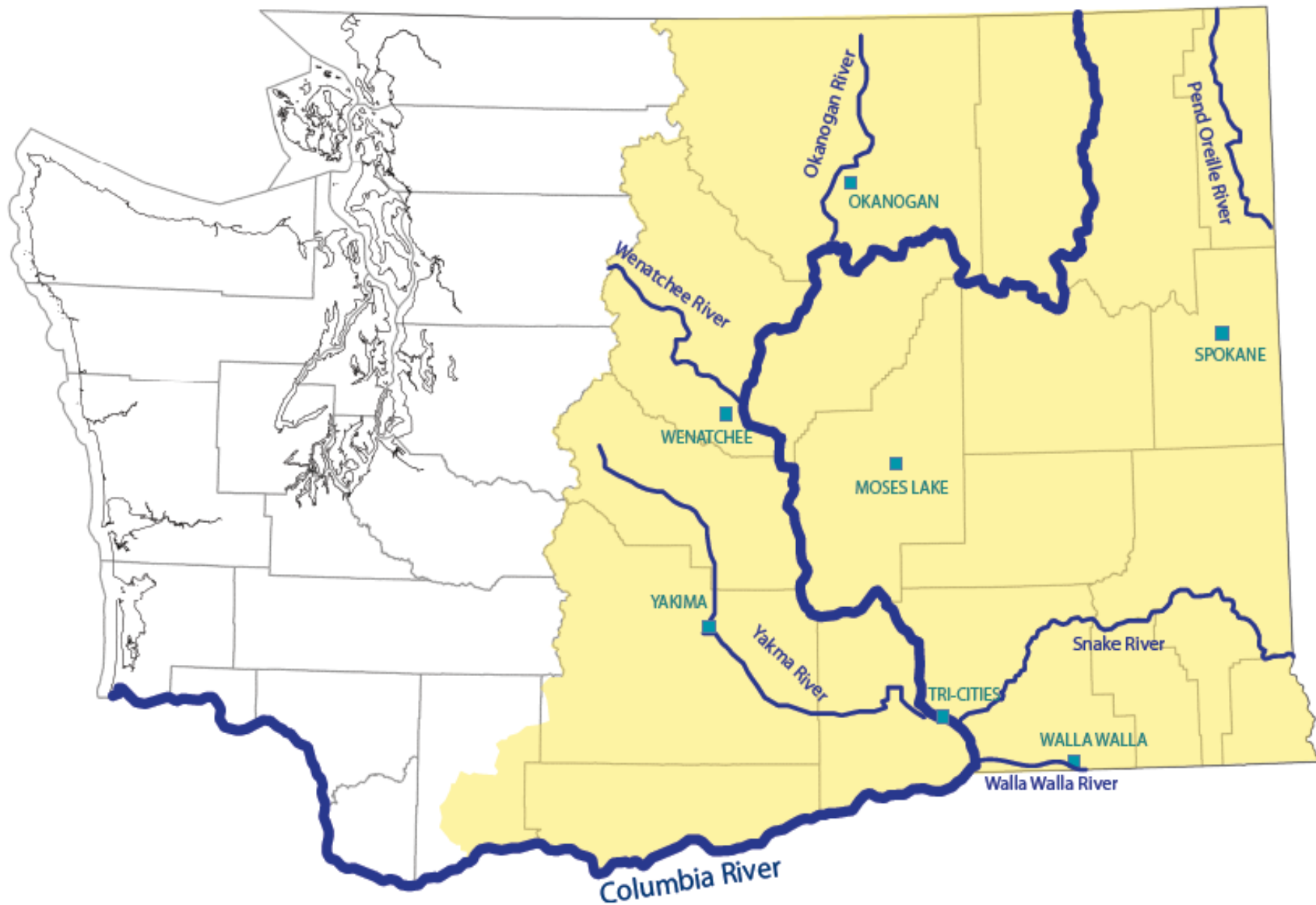
RCW 90.38 – Yakima River Basin

RCW 90.90 – Columbia River

WAC 173-563 – Columbia River Instream
Resources Protection Program

WAC 173-531A – John Day / McNary Pool







Dedicated Investment

Water Supply Development Account Uses

- **Assess, plan, and develop new storage**
- **Improve or alter existing storage facilities**
- **Implement conservation projects**
- **Any other actions to provide access to new water supplies** (e.g., operational changes, pump exchanges, acquisitions, leases, marketing)

OCR Program

Evolving Over Time to Meet the Needs/Demands

- Problem solving focus
- Seeking balance
 - ✓ In water allocation
 - ✓ Between mainstem and tributaries
 - ✓ In geographic distribution of projects
 - ✓ In types of projects
 - ✓ Between water quantity and overall aquatic resources



Columbia River Mitigation

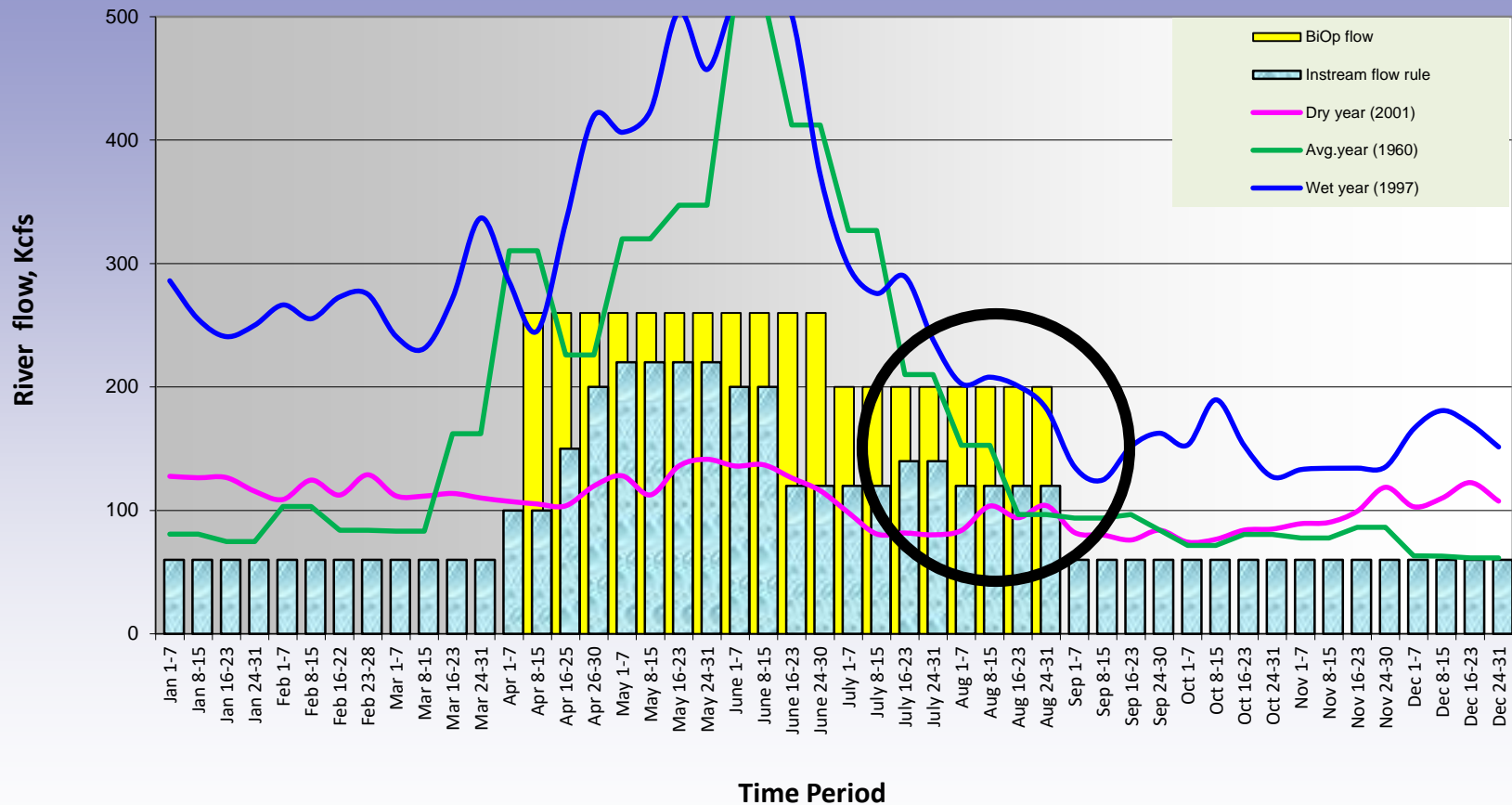
Hundreds of water right applications for new diversions from the Columbia River are pending, some for decades. **RCW 90.90** provided a pathway for new water right processing with the requirement of no net impacts to the river during low flows.

WAC 173-563-020: Any water right application . . . will be evaluated for possible impacts on fish and existing water rights. **The department will consult with appropriate local, state, & federal agencies and Indian tribes in making this evaluation.**, Any permit which is then approved for the use of such waters will be if deemed necessary, subjected to instream flow protection or **mitigation conditions determined on a case-by-case basis** through the evaluation conducted with the agencies and tribes.



Columbia River Instream Flows

Comparison of Dry, Average, Wet Year Flows to Instream Flow Rule
(Columbia River at McNary Dam)





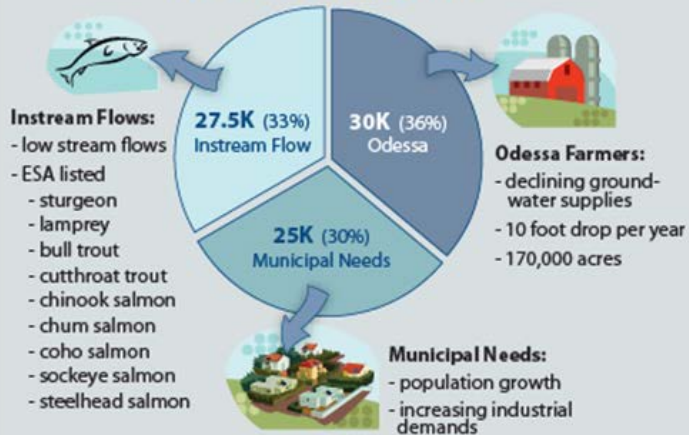
OCR Mitigation Project Examples

Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases Program

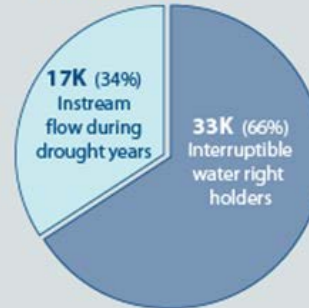
Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases

Operational change of 1 foot annually and 1.8 feet during drought

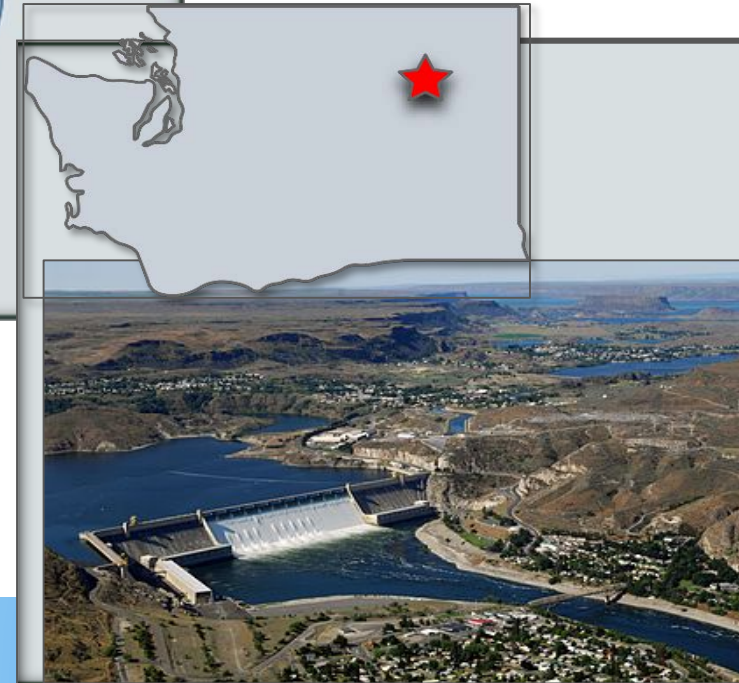
The Lake Roosevelt storage release would divert up to 82.5K ac-ft of water for:



In a drought year an additional 50K ac-ft of water for:



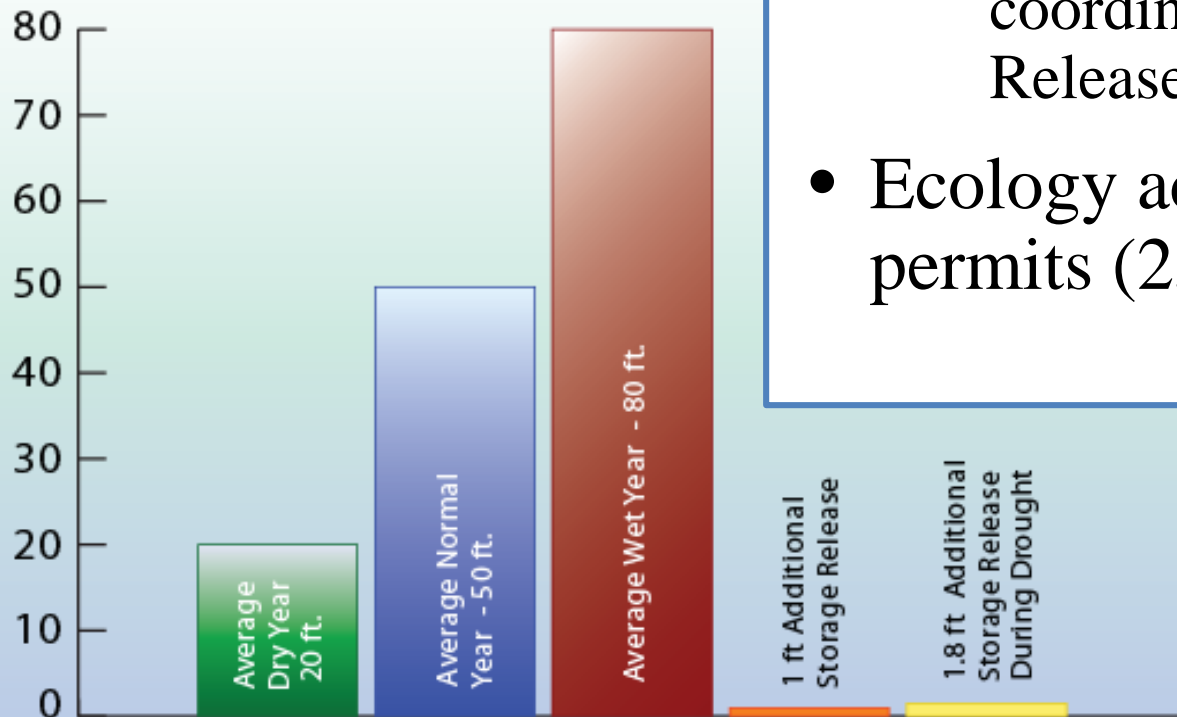
RCW 90.90.060



Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases Program

- **Water for Water**
- **In Place** (Mitigation and water rights are both on Columbia River Mainstem)
- **NOT In-time**
 - Instream Flow Releases coordinated with a Fish Flow Releases Advisory Group
- Ecology actively issuing **M&I** permits (25 KAF)

The New Lake Roosevelt
Incremental Storage Releases



Kennewick Irrigation District

Red Mountain AVA Project

KIDs Red Mountain Project to create 1,400 acres of new viticulture lands on Red Mountain

- ✓ Water for water
- ✓ In place but needed equivalent shrub steppe mitigation
- ✓ In time



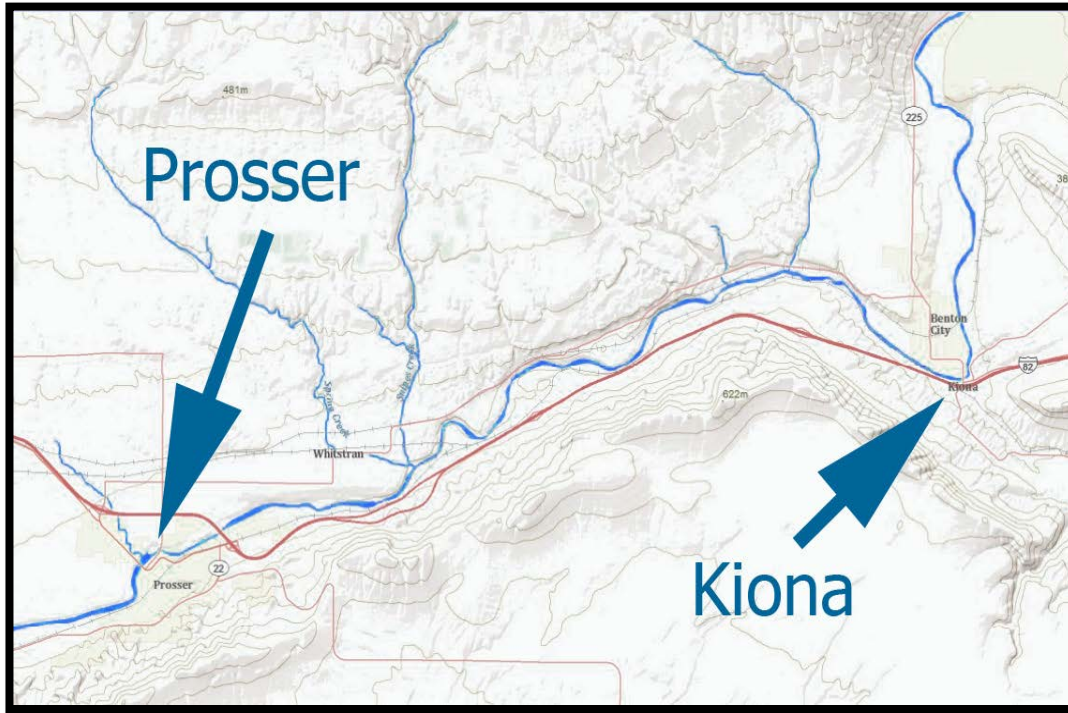
New Diversion at Kiona



Kennewick Irrigation District

Red Mountain AVA Project

- Water savings from efficiency improvements & land use changes to provide water for additional wine grape acreage & Yakima River stream flows.
- Improve flows in the lower Yakima River by 11,000 ac-ft, by moving the pump station downstream from Prosser to Kiona.



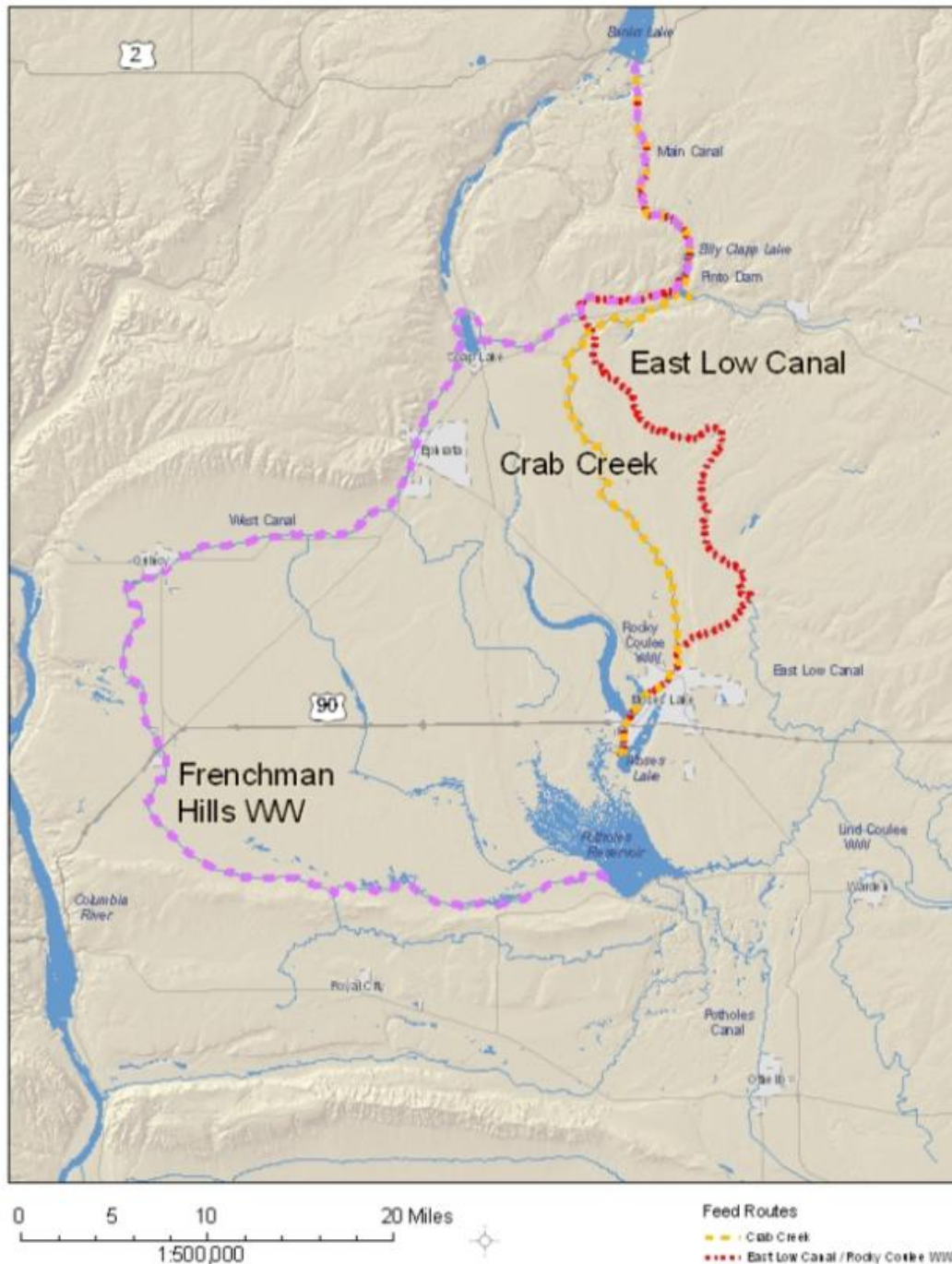
Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program

- To deliver surface water from the Columbia River to 87,7000 acres of Odessa lands, required:
 - Environmental review (habitat enhancements)
 - Biological assessment (chum salmon mitigation)
 - Existing water conveyance system improvements
 - Cultural resource compliance

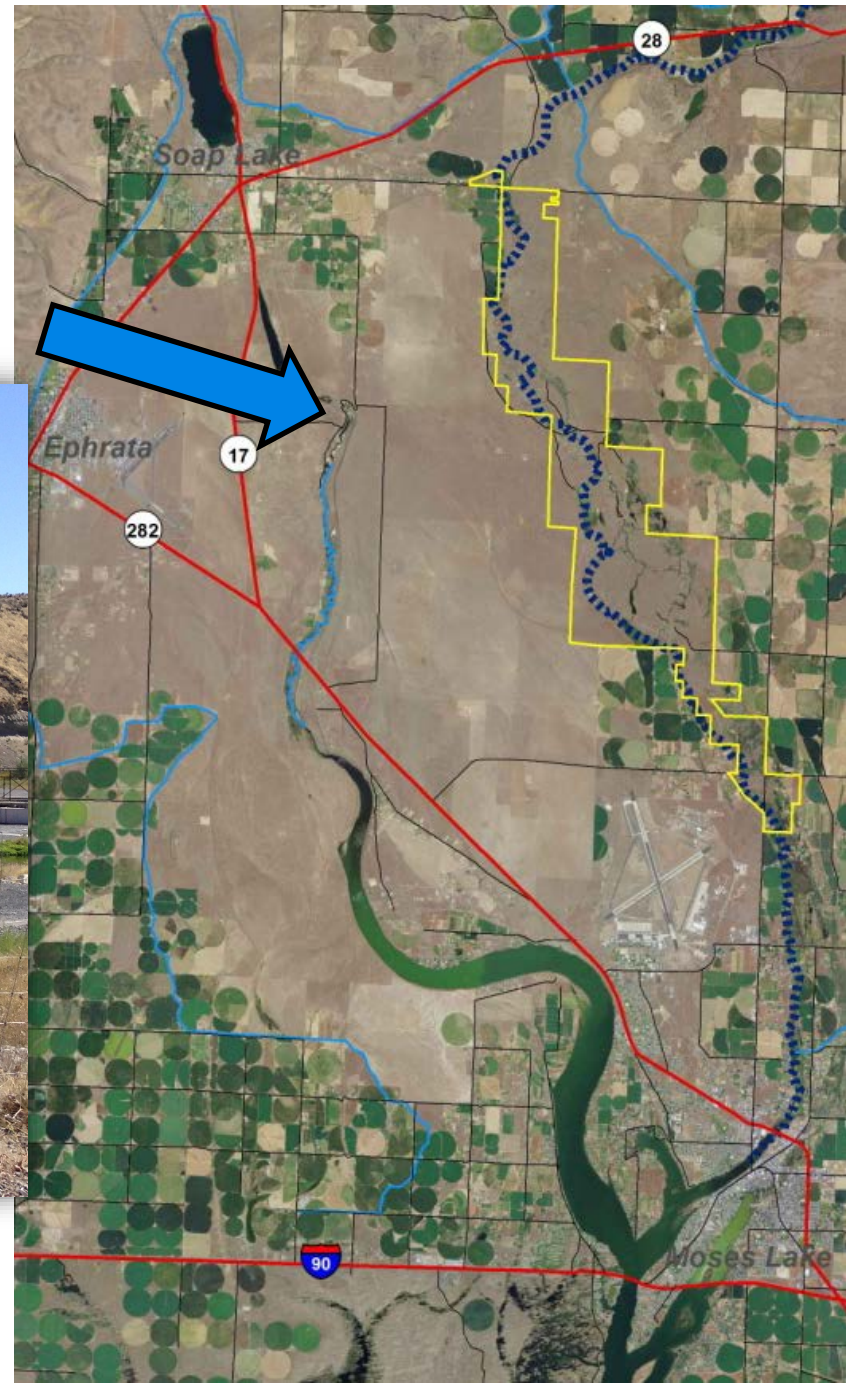


Potholes Supplemental Feedroute

- Rerouting feed water currently delivered down the East Low Canal through Crab Creek and Frenchman Hills WW
- Secure South Columbia Basin Irrigation District Columbia Basin Project water supply from Potholes Reservoir



Trout Lodge Hatchery



Moses Lake Rehabilitation & Irrigation District - Moses Lake North Dam

December 1, 2014



March 10, 2015



Challenges that Lie Ahead

- Supreme Court decisions & Legal Uncertainties
- Columbia River Treaty negotiations
- Long-term funding uncertainties
 - Federal, State and Local
- Projects that span multiple biennia (funding)
- Aging water supply infrastructure
- Climate change, shifting water supplies & drought
- Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion Uncertainties
- Keeping the Momentum going!



Questions and Discussion



CONTACT:

G. Thomas Tebb, L.H.g, L.E.G.
Director, Office of Columbia River
(509) 574-3989
gteb461@ecy.wa.gov